



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department Of Agriculture Rural Development  
Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb.  
68508

**Janet Knobel USDA Rural Development (402) 223-3125**  
**David R. Taladay, Southeast Nebraska Development District (402) 475-2560**

## **15 COUNTIES GAIN ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA ASSETS**

### **--USDA Rural Development & Southeast Nebraska Development District Assist**

**Lincoln, Neb., June 30, 2005**—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development presented the Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDDD) with a \$24,625 symbolic check today in USDA's State Office. Funds will assist in providing economic development planning and technical assistance to a 15 county area in southeast Nebraska. Project is expected to create and/or retain 15 jobs over a 1-year period. Leveraged funds totaling \$4,925 of in-kind assistance will be contributed.

"The information highway may be passing by communities in southeast Nebraska. We believe this project will help some of them get into that fast lane by sharing information on-line," stated Dave Taladay, programs manager for Southeast Nebraska Development District.

Funds will assist SENDDD in bringing businesses and communities online through the Location One Information System (LOIS) and the Nebraska Economic Development Information (NEDI) system. The two systems will market assets, available sites and buildings for southeast Nebraska businesses and communities and expand business opportunities, creating quality jobs.

"USDA Rural Development is committed to keeping Nebraska's rural communities strong and viable," stated Scot Blehm, state director for USDA Rural Development. "Today's funding to Southeast Nebraska Development District will help to make known, the great assets this part of the state possesses. Impacted communities' infrastructure will be expanded, making southeast Nebraska an even more enticing place to live and work."

Counties to be served are Cass, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, Seward, Thayer and York.

The USDA grant was provided through the USDA Rural Development Rural Business Enterprise Grant program. Leveraged in-kind contributions were received from other service providers in the SouthEast Resource Network (SERN), including OPPD, NPPD, and AQUILA. For additional information contact Janet Knobel, [janet.knobel@ne.usda.gov](mailto:janet.knobel@ne.usda.gov), 201 N. 25 Street Beatrice, Neb. 68310 or phone (402) 223-3125, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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